

The Chelford & District Thursday Club

Minty opened the meeting by welcoming all members. The outing to the Acton Scott Historic Working Farm was enjoyed by all who participated. The Club used some of its financial reserves to support the trip and there was a suggestion that next year's outing might be a half day duration.

Congratulations were offered to Alec Yates who would be celebrating his 90th Birthday later this month and also to Olive Durrant, a former member, who had recently had her 90th Birthday.

The speaker, Mr Les Pearson, was then introduced. His talk was based on 'The Life and Times of George Formby'. Mr Pearson gave us a brief introduction into the family background of the entertainer whose father had died aged 48. His mother taught George his father's act so that he could continue on the stage to support the family. His sister had seen someone playing a ukulele and suggested that George should try it. He bought a banjulele for £10 and never looked back.

Mr Pearson had brought recordings of some of George Formby's famous songs including 'Mr Woo - what can I do' and 'Leaning on a Lamp Post' and we heard excerpts from these. He told us of the films George Formby had made and of his leading ladies although it appeared his wife Betty was always on the film set!

George Formby had been called up into the Army in 1939 but had failed the medical and moved to Lytham St Annes where he joined the Home Guard. He entertained the troops on every war front. His death in 1961 saw 100,000 people paying their respects to this popular entertainer of the 20th Century. After a vote of thanks from Rosemary a cup of tea and home made cake were served.

There will be no meeting in August but the Club will resume on 9th September in the Village Hall at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Mrs Betty Hayhurst and her talk will be entitled "I was nearly an Egghead".

For further details, or requests for transport, please contact Minty Day on 01625.861474